THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT) (a) and (b) The National Institute of Immunology has been conducting basic & applied research for the development of suitable diagnostics, vaccines and biological reagents for infectious and non-infectious diseases. For this purpose, the Institute imports pathogen free and genetically defined laboratory bred experimental animals. As part of procedure, the permission is to be obtained from the Committee for the Purpose of Control & Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA) under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. After procedural formalities, the Institue has received permission from CPCSEA for the import of genetically defined, laboratory bred experimental mice.

†WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED QUESTIONS SET FOR THE 2ND DECEMBER, 1999

Central Government Employees Consumer Co-Operative Society

*61. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2714 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd December, 1995 and state:

(a) whether the Society has since got itself registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the rules under which the Society has opened its branches/stores outside Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE. (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question of opening of branch stores of the Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society Limited (known as Kendriya Bhandar) outside Delhi was examined in consultation with the Central Registrar of Multi-State Cooperative Societies under the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India and Kendriya Bhandar was advised that even without being registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984, it can open and operate its branches outside Delhi, but it cannot enrol members from outside Delhi.

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†The sitting of the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, the 2nd December, 1999 was adjourned on account of passing away of Shri T.M. Venkatachalam, a sitting member of the House. Answers to Questions put down in the lists for that day were laid on the Table of the House on Friday, the 3rd December, 1999.

However, in 1995, the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi pointed out that as per Bye-laws of the Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society, the area of operation of its stores had to be limited to the National Capital Territory of Delhi. No decision in regard to the conversion of the Society into Multi-State Cooperative Society could be taken as some of the provisions of the revised Bye-Laws of the Society itself were under challenge in Delhi High Court and the matter remained sub-judice till recently.

Central Aid to A.P. Government to Tackle Drought

*62.SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 720 crore Central Aid has been sought by the Andhra Pradesh State Government for tackling drought;

(b) if so, the assistance given, so far; and

(c) by when would the balance amount be given?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a memorandum seeking assistance of Rs. 720.36 crore from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) in the wake of drought in the State. The entire Central share of Rs. 107.69 crore, out of the allocation of Rs. 143.59 crore to the State under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 1999-2000, has already been released to the State.

(c) The State Government's request for assistance from the NFCR is under consideration in accordance with the established procedure. The same will be placed before the National Calamity Relief Committee (NCRC) for a decision on the quantum of assistance, if any, from the NFCR. Assistance, as approved by the NCRC, will be released to the State Government.

Construction work at Proposed Oil Refinery Near Bina, M.P.

†*63. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction work at the proposed oil refinery to be set up near Bina in Madhya Pradesh has been hindered; if so, the reasons therefor,

(b) the amount spent so far on the construction work of the said refinery;

(c) the time-frame and the cost construction fixed for the said refinery;

(d) what will be the increase in cost of construction as a result of the delay occurring due to the above hindrance; and

†Original notice of the Question received in Hindi.